

No. 48, to temporarily extend the debt ceiling. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for rollcall vote No. 47 taken on March 6, 1996. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3019, BALANCED BUDGET DOWNPAYMENT ACT, II

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 372 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

#### H. RES. 372

*Resolved*, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 1(b) of rule XXIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3019) making appropriations for fiscal year 1996 to make a further downpayment toward a balanced budget, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The amendment printed in section 2 of this resolution shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as the original bill for the purpose of further amendment. This bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. No further amendment shall be in order except those specified in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each further amendment may be considered only in the order specified in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment except as specified in the report, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against the amendments specified in the report are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit. The motion to recommit may include instructions only if offered by the minority leader or his designee.

SEC. 2. The amendment considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole is as follows:

Page 539, line 16, strike "specifically addresses the availability of" and insert in lieu thereof "expressly makes available for obligation".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California [Mr. DREIER] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman

from South Boston, Massachusetts [Mr. MOAKLEY], and pending that I yield myself such time as I may consume. All time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, this rule provides for consideration of H.R. 3019, the second Balanced Budget Down Payment Act, under a modified closed rule, providing 1 hour of general debate divided equally between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations.

The rule further provides for adoption in the House and in the Committee of the Whole for a technical amendment printed in section 2 of the resolution.

Only amendments specified in the Committee on Rules report are in order.

The rule makes in order four amendments: An amendment by the gentleman from New York [Mrs. LOWEY] to strike language in the bill giving States authority to determine if Medicaid shall fund abortions other than to save the life of a mother within that State; an amendment by the gentleman from Oklahoma [Mr. ISTOOK] to require organizations that receive Federal grants to disclose their lobbying activities; an amendment by the gentleman from Idaho, [Mr. CRAPO] to establish a deficit reduction lockbox; and a substitute that may be offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin, [Mr. OBEY].

Mr. Speaker, the substitute amendment shall be debatable for 60 minutes. The other amendments shall be debatable for 20 minutes each. Time for each amendment shall be equally divided and controlled by an opponent and a proponent. All points of order against the amendments are waived. Each amendment shall be considered as read and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

Finally, the rule provides that the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit which, if containing instructions, may only be offered by the minority leader or his designee.

Mr. Speaker, less than 6 weeks ago, the President stood right here in this Chamber and declared to the Congress and the American people that the era of big government is over. He also closed that State of the Union Message with a plea, a plea to all of us. He said, "I challenge all of you in this Chamber. Let us never, ever, shut the Federal Government down again."

Now, Mr. Speaker, this bill will prevent a partial Government shutdown on March 15. The bill essentially completes the fiscal year 1996 appropriations process so that this House can get down to the business of dealing with the fiscal year 1997. Most importantly, this bill continues the process of trim-

ming Federal spending so that we can proceed to a balanced budget by 2002. It is critical that America's children wake up on January 1, 2000, and can see that we are on the verge of ending the annual deficits that are mortgaging their chance for a bright future.

Regrettably, it appears that the era of big government has returned down at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. In order to increase Federal spending in his favored programs, the President is now threatening to, and listen to this carefully, Mr. Speaker, he is threatening to close down the Federal Government. He will again shut down the Government with his veto pen if we do not add another \$8 billion in deficit spending to this bill.

The crocodile tears are flooding out onto Pennsylvania Avenue, and the rhetoric is right from their pollsters and focus groups. The President will shut down the Federal Government again rather than sign a bill that does not spend more on Federal education, environment, and worker training programs.

Mr. Speaker, there is no substance behind the White House charges. Just look at the issue of education, for example. Local communities and States carry the load on education, not the Federal Government. The President claims that we propose to cut spending by \$3.3 billion. Now to put that into perspective, the United States spends over one-half trillion dollars a year, over \$500 billion a year, on education.

This Congress, the new majority, is strongly committed to improving education. The President, on the other hand, would not raise a finger to stand in the way of the powerful teachers unions that are strangling real education reforms in cities and towns all across this country, but he will shut down the Federal Government over a .6 of 1 percent cut in Federal spending.

If he insists on threatening to shut down the Federal Government again, I wish he would at least threaten to shut down the Government if we did not pass a tax cut on families and a reduction in the capital gains tax to get wages moving up. That would finally address the Clinton crunch that is squeezing working families.

Mr. Speaker, we have a moral obligation to our children to end the decades of deficits and debt. We must put families ahead of Government bureaucracies. This is a very tough job because the majority in Congress supports a smaller Government while the President wants the Government to solve more and more problems.

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Nevertheless, this Congress remains committed to proceeding down the road to a balanced budget, and this bill closes out the fiscal year 1996 appropriations process, consistent with that goal.

The challenge that I would offer, Mr. Speaker, to our President is that he